



## McGREGOR W. SCOTT

*United States Attorney  
Eastern District of California*

## NEWS RELEASE

**Sacramento**  
501 I Street, Suite 10-100  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Tel 916/554-2700  
TTY 916/554-2877

**Fresno**  
2500 Tulare St., Suite 4401  
Fresno, CA 93721  
Tel (559) 497-4000  
TTY (559) 497-4500

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**October 10, 2007**

Contact: Mary Wenger  
(916) 554-2730  
<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae>

### **LAST DEFENDANT IN LARGE SUTTER COUNTY MARIJUANA CONSPIRACY PLEADS GUILTY**

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that KIENG PHAT LIENG, 34, of Sacramento, pleaded guilty yesterday. The guilty plea was entered before United States District Judge Frank C. Damrell, Jr. to 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) – Manufacturing Marijuana.

This case is the product of a joint investigation by the Yuba and Sutter County Narcotics Enforcement Team and the United States Drug Enforcement Agency.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Michael M. Beckwith, who prosecuted the case, in April of last year, LIENG and his associates, KY CHAN HAU and SAM WANG CHAO, leased farmland near a school in East Nicolas, California, from an innocent third party. They started growing marijuana among corn and okra. At the time of their arrest in August 2006, they had grown over 3,700 plants. The arrests were made just weeks before the group planned to harvest their illegal crop. The grow had an estimated street value of over \$5.5 million.

The defendant is scheduled to be sentenced by the Honorable Frank C. Damrell, Jr. on January 14, 2008. KY CHAN HAU, who pleaded guilty on September 24, 2007, will be sentenced on March 3, 2008. SAM WANG CHAO, who pleaded guilty on August 8, 2007, will be sentenced on November 13, 2007. The maximum statutory penalty for a violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) is life imprisonment and a \$4

million dollar fine. However, the actual sentence will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables, and any applicable statutory sentencing factors.

###